

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00704 291515Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 PC-01

EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3532

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARAMARIBO 0704

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO CARIBBEAN: SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

REF: STATE 176571

1. TAKING CLUE FROM SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES MENTIONED FOR OTHER POSTS IN REFTEL, AND PRESENCE OF AID AND PEACE CORPS AS WELL AS IO OFFICERS IN GROUP, EMBASSY PARAMARIBO MENTIONED THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

2. THERE IS NO AID PROGRAM IN SURINAM NOR HAS THERE BEEN FOR ALMOST FIFTEEN YEARS. SURINAM'S PROBLEM IS NOT HOW TO GET AID BUT HOW TO USE EFFECTIVELY THE MORE-THAN-SUFFICIENT AID IT IS ALREADY GETTING FROM THE NETHERLANDS. EXCEPT FOR THE HIGHWAY FROM THE AIRPORT TO PARAMARIBO, WHICH WAS BUILT BY THE US ARMY DURING WORLD WAR II, THERE IS NO US PROJECT TO BE SEEN IN OR NEAR PARAMARIBO. IN VIEW OF EXTREMELY LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE HERE, EMBASSY DOUBTS ADVISABILITY OF ANY TRIPS OUTSIDE PARAMARIBO. IF MR. VALDEZ SHOULD BE INTERESTED, WE ARE SURE MINISTRY OF

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PAGE 02 PARAMA 00704 291515Z

DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE GLAD TO SET UP A BRIEFING FOR HIM ON SURINAM'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS, WHICH MAINLY CONCERN THE EXPLOITATION OF BAUXITE IN WESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY.

3. PEACE CORPS. AMBASSADOR MET WITH PEACE CORPS REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER, 1976, AND AGREED TO PUT PROPOSAL BEFORE GOS FOR A LIMITED PEACE CORPS PROGRAM

IN SURINAM. THIS WAS DONE LATE 76 AND EARLY 77 IN CONVERSATION WITH MINISTRY OF GENERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND BY SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FROM PEACE CORPS HEADQUARTERS. AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS CONSIDERATION, GOS ANSWERED WITH THANKS FOR PROPOSAL THAT IT DID NOT DESIRE TO AVAIL ITSELF OF THE POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY, AND THIS WAS COMMUNICATED BY AMBASSADOR TO PEACE CORPS HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON IN PERSONAL MEETING IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR.

4. UN ISSUES. PRIME MINISTER (HERE CALLED MINISTER-PRESIDENT) HENCK ARRON IS ALSO MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF GENERAL AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THERE IS A FULL-BLOWN FINANCE MINISTRY WHICH HE SUPERVISES; THE MINISTRY OF GENERAL AFFAIRS IS LIKE OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, AND DOES HIS OVERALL STAFF WORK IN RUNNING THE CABINET AND COORDINATING THE OTHER MINISTRIES; THERE IS NO SEPARATE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THAT FUNCTION BEING TACKED ON THE THE MINISTRY OF GENERAL AFFAIRS. SINCE ARRON HAS FOUR MINISTERIAL HATS OF HIS OWN, HIS SUPERVISION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CAN ONLY BE GENERAL, ALTHOUGH HE TAKES A GREAT INTEREST IN THIS AND IS HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE INSOFAR AS BROAD POLICY IS CONCERNED. HIS PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN EFFECT THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR DAILY AFFAIRS, IS DIRECTOR VAN DER GELD, WHO LEAVES FOR A MONTH IN EUROPE ON AUGUST 5. THE MAN IN THE MINISTRY PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR UN AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARAMA 00704 291515Z

OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS, PROFESSOR SIEGFRIED WERNERS, LEAVES FOR NEW YORK JULY 29 TO WORK ON THE CONVENTION AGAINST TAKING HOSTAGES, AND WON'T BE BACK UNTIL LATE AUGUST. THE ONE AND ONLY MAN LEFT WITH SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT THE TIME OF THE YOUNG VISIT, THEREFORE, WILL BE MR. LUCIEN HENAR, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY. IT IS LIKELY THAT HENAR WILL BE INCLUDED BY MR. ARRON IN HIS SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH AMB. YOUNG AND, IF THERE SHOULD BE ANY MORE DETAILED OR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS WHICH MR. DAILY WOULD WANT TO TAKE UP, MR. HENAR WOULD BE THE MAN.

5. PRESS COVERAGE. THIS POST UNFORTUNATELY HAS NO PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, PRESS ATTACHE, OR ANYONE LIKE THAT. WE DO HAVE A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH MR. GEORGE HERING, CHIEF OF THE GOVERNMENT PRESS SERVICE, AND WILL BE WORKING WITH HIM TO SET UP OPTIMUM ARRANGEMENTS FOR CORRESPONDENTS TO GET PHOTOS AND FILE COPY. WE WILL HAVE PRESS REPRESENTATIVE GET IN TOUCH WITH MR. GARUFI AT THE PLANE.

6. THERE ARE NO APPROPRIATE WREATH-LAYING PLACES IN PARAMARIBO. QUEEN WILHELMINA'S STATUE WAS RELEGATED

TO A DARK CORNER ON INDEPENDENCE, THERE IS ONE OF A FORMER
PRIME MINISTER BUT THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED ELECTIONEERING,
AND THE OTHERS AVAILABLE ARE OF BOLIVAR AND MAHATMA GANDHI,
NEITHER OF PROPER CHARACTER FOR THIS VISIT. THERE IS A
DUTCH WAR MEMORIAL, BUT AGAIN THAT WOULDN'T DO. IF
AMBASSADOR YOUNG SHOULD DESIRE TO VISIT HISTORIC PLACES,
THERE ARE SEVERAL WITHIN A STONE'S THROW OF THE PRIME
MINISTER'S OFFICE: THE HISTORIC DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH
WHERE INDEPENDENCE WAS PROCLAIMED IN 1975; THE LARGEST
(THEY SAY) WOODEN (ROMAN CATHOLIC) CATHEDRAL IN THE WESTERN
HIMISPHERE; FORT ZEELANDIA, DATING FROM THE SEVENTEENTH
CENTURY AND NOW A MUSEUM; THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING, ALSO
CENTURIES OLD, ETC.

ZURHELLEN

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PAGE 04 PARAMA 00704 291515Z

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